

Newspaper: Providence Journal

Date: _____

Page: _____

Top state officials get pay raises

PROVIDENCE (AP) — The state's top officials, including Gov. Donald L. Carcieri, all will receive a 12 percent pay raise under state law, starting today.

The law mandates that at the beginning of each four-year term, the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, general treasurer and attorney general all receive an automatic pay increase.

According to the law, the raise must equal "the total percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Northeast Region for the four previous fiscal years." The raise can't exceed 12 percent.

Carcieri's raise, his first since he took office in January 2003, will increase his salary by \$12,623 to \$117,817 a year.

Newly re-elected Attorney General Patrick Lynch's pay will rise from \$94,121 to \$105,416 a year.

The pay for the newly elected Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, Secretary of State Ralph Mollis and Treasurer Frank Caprio is increasing from \$88,584 to \$99,214, according to Claudia Haugen, chief of human resources services in the state personnel office.

The raises equal 3 percent a year for the last four years. Most other state workers didn't get a raise in 2003 because of a contract dispute. But they got 4 percent in both 2004

and 2005, 3 percent in 2006 and are promised another 3 percent in June.

The new political term also returns Sandra Thornton Whitehouse, the wife of U.S. Sen.-elect Sheldon Whitehouse, to state-funded work. She'll make \$100-an-hour job as an environmental consultant to lawmakers at the Statehouse.

Sandra Whitehouse, who has a doctorate in marine biology, was first hired in April 2000 by then-House Speaker John B. Harwood in April 2000. She made as much as \$88,100 in fiscal year 2004, but stopped her work for the state last year to focus on helping her husband defeat Republican U.S. Sen. Lincoln Chafee.